

Wisdom Not Worry
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

I read this morning of millions of tenants who can't pay their rent because of the financial crisis the coronavirus has caused. Countless Americans are worried they'll be evicted and left on the street. Apparently, there is a movement afoot seeking legislation requiring landlords to forgive the debt, to set aside their tenant's obligation to pay what they owe. But justice requires someone pay. Landlords have to eat too.

Sin is a debt we owe God. The Greek word for forgiveness means “to set aside” or to “abandon.” To ask our Father to forgive us our debts is to pray that He set aside and abandon our debt. It is to pray He release us from our obligation to pay what we owe. But justice requires that someone has to pay.

He did. Listen to what Paul says Jesus, God's Son, did for us at the cross: “He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:13-14).

Jesus teaches us to pray “forgive us our debts” daily because He wants us to hear Him say daily, “Don't worry, I paid it in full.”

Can you imagine the relief experienced by tenants whose landlords forgive their obligation to pay rent? Do you know the exceedingly greater joy of trusting that Christ has cancelled your debt by paying it for you? Horatio Spafford, the author of the beloved hymn, *When Peace Like a River*, did.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole.
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, Oh my soul!

Grateful,
Pastor Ben